



View from the

Blackdown Hills

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Issue 84 October 2011

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Keeping you in touch with news and events
in your Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Hills village named as a 'swift hot spot'

By **ANDERS LARSSON**
anders@findlenews.co.uk

HEMYOCK has been identified as a hot spot for swifts.

Back in May, the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) team, the RSPB and Devon Wildlife Trust teamed up to appeal for sightings of swift nests and low flying 'screaming parties'.

This followed similar surveys in 2009 and 2010 which reported no sightings of the birds in the AONB.

This year, the response from local people has been more encouraging, with Hemyock emerging as a particular hot spot as reports came in of at least six pairs nesting in the village.

Locals have been praised for helping conservationists get a better understanding of swifts in the area.

Blackdown Hills AONB manager Linda Bennett said:

"The full results of the survey will take a little longer to analyse, but I am delighted at the response.

"It's great to know that we have breeding pairs, and we must continue to monitor them in future years. Swift numbers have fallen dramatically in the South West recently, and we must do everything we can to help them to thrive. I would like to thank everyone in the Blackdown Hills who took part, and encourage even more people to get involved next year."

Swifts nest in the UK for just three months over the summer, and have now returned to Africa for the winter according to those involved with the survey.

For more information on swift conservation in the Blackdown Hills, call the AONB office on 01823 680681.

The Blackdown Hills AONB was designated in 1991 to protect the landscape for the nation. It is one of 46 AONBs in the UK. It covers 370 sq km of land on the Devon and Somerset border.

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Pulman's View from Crewkerne
View from the Blackdown Hills*

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200 pack in to bid farewell to minister Reed

By BEN MIDDLETON
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MORE than 200 people packed into Hemyock Village Hall for a special Sunday service to say farewell to church minister Steven Reed and his wife, Hazel.

The farewell service took place on Sunday, September 4th — exactly 10 years to the day since Mr Reed began his work at Hemyock Baptist Church.

A spokesman for the church said: "Steven was the visionary for Blackdown Hills Christians (BHC) which is a cooperative of churches working together in the hills.

"There have been some significant joint events since BHC was founded, including the visit of major international speakers."

Mr Reed added: "The strength of the church is its gifted and committed congregation and the vitality of the community is the willingness to allow people to engage their talents to the benefit of all."

Mr Reed and his wife will now be moving to Taunton where Mr Reed will become a Chaplain at Musgrove Hospital as well as continuing his role as Chaplain to Devon Army Cadets.



◆ STEVEN and Hazel Reed

Events set for fungi fans

FUNGI fans in the Blackdown Hills are in for a treat this autumn with several events set to take place.

On Sunday, October 16th, a waxcap mushroom survey will be taking place across the Blackdowns.

A mushroom hunt will take place on Sunday, October 30th. The hunt will be followed by mushroom appetisers at the Tuckers Arms in Dalwood.

The Yarcombe Inn will be the venue for a talk on mushroom photography on Saturday, November 5th. Following the talk a mushroom hunt

will take place with David Allen and nature photographer Dan Bryan.

For more information about the events visit www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk or call the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty office on 01823 680681.

WORKING OUR WOODLANDS

Blackdown and East Devon Woodland Association with John Greenshields

I'VE just come back from the Oak fair — brilliant, and the weather held.

The Oak Fair at Stock Gaylard is a one-day event held every year very similar to our Blackdown Woodland Fair in July. It is slightly bigger and held in the grounds of a large house. I am still getting very good feedback from our woodland fair — do have a look at the photos on the Woodbiz website, and if any of you have any comments or ideas for next year, please let me know.

I love autumn, there is so much going on and, provided the harvest is in and the animal food is stored, I get a sort of warm feeling knowing all is ready for winter.

We will be harvesting the apples soon. We make about 200 litres of apple juice, and about the same into cider, mostly from our new orchard planted three years ago. Out of the 200 trees planted, we only lost eight, which was pretty good, but I did water non-stop that first spring.

We also grow our own spuds and this year we have not done so well, probably because I used my own seed!

All the longhorn cattle are back in the Neroche Forest after some had to be quarantined due to a TB reactor. They look good, well worth going to see them.

We have some rough grazing on our farm and it is essential to keep on top of the cattle to keep the undergrowth under control, this helps some of the more fragile plants come through, and on our ground even heather has returned.

We are coming up to tree planting time. I try to plant out from November onwards, this gives the tree a good start before the dry spring comes. Most trees benefit from a prune after planting, as this strengthens the root base, but check with your nursery.

Fruit trees also benefit in the spring from having their blossom taken off so they don't produce fruit the first year, this also consolidates the root system. I see a lot of tree guards left on trees after they have outgrown them.

This practice is not only wasteful but also unsightly. Wasteful, because you can use them again, just cut them down the perforated line and, when on the next tree, put a cable tie around the centre.

On the farm we have started hedge-cutting, and this will go on until December as we do a lot of other farms as well.

Over the years I have left promising looking saplings to grow on in all the hedges we cut, now I can see my reward as, on our farm alone, we must have 200 new hedgerow trees!

Some hedges we leave to lay in about six to eight years, and others trimmed every other year, to give a broad wildlife habitat.

**To contact John call
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parkfarm@tinyonline.co.uk**

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◆ YARCOMBE Young Farmers Club members cram into a cattle crush as part of a competition

Crushing victory for local young farmers

By **BEN MIDDLETON**
ben@tindlenews.co.uk

YARCOMBE Young Farmers' Club has been crowned winners in a unique competition held at agricultural shows throughout the summer.

Club members took part in a weigh-in

where they had to cram as many members as possible into a Synergy cattle crush and onto a weigh plate.

The weigh-ins took place at Honiton Agricultural Show, Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show, Melplash Show and the Dorset County Show.

Lucy Le Cocq, organiser of the

competition, said: "We were delighted to have so many young farmers clubs getting into the spirit of things and taking up our challenge."

"We recognise that young farmers are the future of the industry, which is worth £1.4 billion in the south west."

"It's important that they are supported in

any way the industry can and are kept up to speed with the latest advances."

The top prize on offer was a hog roast that will be held later in the year.

The Yarcombe Young Farmers' Club will be presented with their award at the South West Dairy Show on Wednesday, October 5th.

Pulses rise over calendar girls

PULSES have been raised in Culmstock recently as women from the village embarked on a charity campaign in aid of the Devon Air Ambulance Trust.

Twelve women from the Blackdown Hills village have created the Culmstock Calendar Girls calendar and funds raised by sales of the calendar will be donated to the trust.

Photographer Rob Stopford was the man tasked with capturing the woman and he says the images "reflect the ladies varied lifestyles and interests in an array of scenes ranging from snow

boarding and belly dancing through to spring flowers, shooting and fast cars".

Mr Stopford said: "What fun working with these great girls. I just hope all our work brings in as much as possible for the Devon Air Ambulance Trust."

"Everyone involved has worked so hard over the last six months and we have achieved something that is artistic, edgy and that we are truly proud of."

"We hope that sales of our calendar will make as much money for the

Devon Air Ambulance Trust as possible. The air ambulance is such a crucial life line for anybody living and working in Devon, making it a really worthwhile cause to support."

"We would like to thank everyone who has been involved, especially our sponsors who have made all this possible."

"We hope you enjoy watching 2012 unfold through our calendar as much as we enjoyed making it."

The calendar is now on sale at various retail outlets across the Blackdown Hills priced £9.99.

Five vehicles in A303 pile-up

FIRE crews from Honiton were called to reports of a multi-car pile-up on the A303, near Pottery.

The incident took place on Saturday, September 3rd, just before 3pm and involved a total of five vehicles.

The crew used small tools to deal with the incident and assisted the ambulance crew who were also at the scene.

**Contact the news team now at
blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk**

Four homes plans

PLANS to build four houses in an area known as Cookes Field in Chardstock have been submitted to East Devon District Council (EDDC).

The application has been submitted by Exeter-based developers Jameson Homes Ltd and if successful could see a mix of two, three and four bedroom properties created.

Planning permission for one property already exists at the site and this was granted in November 2010, however, since this approval was granted a parcel of land at the rear of the site has become available.

In a planning document produced by Narracotts Architects, the agent for Jameson Homes Ltd, it said: "The design and external appearance of the dwellings accords with the recommendations and advice of the planning and conservation officer and will therefore not harm the visual amenity of the site or surrounding area."

"The proposals do not harm the character of the conservation area and are sympathetic to the setting of listed buildings in close proximity to the site."

"The design of the dwellings has been carefully considered to avoid adversely affecting privacy or amenity of neighbouring properties."

According to the planning application space would be provided for a total of eight cars — two at each property — in the form of garages and parking bays.

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MEMBERS of Chardstock Vintage Tractor and Machinery Club came up against the Dalwood Tractor Boys in a competition at Chardstock Street Fayre on Saturday, September 3rd.

The two clubs were tasked with dismantling a Massey Ferguson tractor and then putting it back together again in the shortest time possible.

The Dalwood club completed the task in a little under 10-minutes while the Chardstock team took slightly longer finishing with a time of 11-minutes.

Jan Bond, secretary of the club, said: "Thank you to everyone for their generosity and to the boys from Dalwood for giving us some great entertainment."

"Thanks also to Sarah Williamson and her team for a great day out at the Chardstock Street Fayre."

"The following day (Sunday, September 4th) a ploughing demonstration was held in a field at Tytherleigh, where around 15 tractors took part. Everyone enjoyed the event and donations were given to the clubs chosen charities."

"A big thank you goes to everyone who made the ploughing demonstration possible, especially Rachel and her team at the Tytherleigh Arms who supplied everyone with a lovely lunch and Ken and Trudy for their unique way of making a brilliant tea."



Head-to-head in tractor race



◆ TOP, Dalwood Tractor Boy's and Chardstock Vintage Tractor and Machinery Club at Chardstock Street Fayre. Above, Chardstock Vintage Tractor and Machinery Club at the a ploughing demonstration in Chardstock. Right, Terry Knight and his model steam engine



◆ MARTYN Johnston and Tilda at the show

Tilda a winner at sanctuary's successful show

FERNE Animal Sanctuary Annual Fun Dog Show raised more than £1,700 towards the work there.

The show was held on Sunday, September 4th and featured 13 classes.

A total of 142 dogs took part and winners included Kim Charles from Chard — with Flight, a lurcher — in

Best Child Handler Class. The Best Rescue Dog title went to Pepe, a chihuahua owned by Betty Vercoe, also from Chard.

Tilda, a labradoodle owned by Martyn Johnston of Rocombe, triumphed by taking The Prettiest Bitch title. Ferne would like to thank Stuart McQueen of Coombefield

Veterinary Hospital in Axminster, Jenny Sweet, Mr and Mrs Dewar of Yeovil, all volunteers, Coombefield Veterinary Hospital, E J Grabham Electricals, Lentells Accountants, Rathbones, The Ultimate Plum Pudding Co and Alro Services Ltd, Eagle Plant and Mac Wheadon for supporting the event in various ways.

Contest seeks young writers

HONITON and District Writers' Group is set to launch its 2011 Young Writers' Competition.

The competition is aimed at primary and secondary schoolchildren and anyone entering has to write an original story on any subject.

The story must be no more than 750 words.

John Carter, one of the competition organisers, said: "Last year was a great success and we had some wonderful work from many budding young writers. This year we are extending the competition to senior schools in east Devon as well. We know there is real talent out there."

The junior entries will be judged by children's writer TM Alexander and the senior entries will be judged by author Sue Purkiss.

Six winners will be chosen from the two junior age groups — five to eight and nine to 11 — and six from the two senior age groups — 11 to 14 and 16 to 18. The winners will receive a signed framed certificate, a gift token and a signed book from one of the judges.

All entries have to be submitted by Thursday, November 10th, and the winners will be announced at the end of November. A prize-giving ceremony will take place in early December.

Stories should be sent to John Carter, Smokey House, Yarcombe, Honiton, Devon, EX14 9AD.



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A View from the Blackdowns



◆ AN autumn wellie walk to Wellington Monument, photo by Imagination Photography

Do you have a photo of a View from the Blackdowns? Email it to blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk

Man dies and woman seriously injured in crash

A MAN has died and a woman has been left with serious injuries following a crash on the A303.

The A303, near Shutlands Farm, Yacombe, was the scene of the fatal crash on Saturday, September 10th.

Fire crews from Honiton and Chard attended the scene along with ambulance crews and police.

The crash took place at around 2.15pm and involved a grey Honda CRV which had left the road.

A spokesman for Devon and Cornwall Police said: "Two occupants were in the vehicle. The male driver and female passenger received serious injuries. The driver was taken by land ambulance to Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton and the female passenger was taken by air

ambulance to the same hospital. The driver subsequently died in hospital. The female passenger remains in hospital being treated for serious injuries and is described as in a poorly condition."

The police spokesman added that both people are believed to be in their mid-80s and from the Alton area of Hampshire.

Speaking about the incident, a spokesman for the fire service said: "Fire

appliances from Honiton and Chard were mobilised to a report of a road traffic collision.

"On arrival, fire crews reported one person still trapped. Crews removed the roof of a vehicle and removed the casualty using a long board. The casualty was then conveyed to hospital by air ambulance."

Police have confirmed that they are still investigating the cause of the crash.

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Written by countryside
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TONY JACKSON



A hawk eyes up the aviary prey

A CRASH and flutter of wings at first light from the aviary close to the house revealed an immature hen sparrowhawk calmly sitting on the aviary roof, inspecting the terrified inhabitants inside.

This hawk is becoming increasingly impudent and now regularly seeks her first kill of the day at my expense. Despite banging the window, she took not the slightest notice and remained poised in the hope that she could snatch a finch through the wire. So far half-a-dozen aviary birds have been killed in this fashion.

Eventually, I had to go outside to usher her away but I have little doubt that she will be back. There are, literally, dozens of house sparrows on feeders round the other side of the house, yet she never seems to make an aerial assault on them.

An unusual sighting yesterday evening. Sitting in a high seat, watching for deer, a mature roe buck gradually fed towards me until it was within 20 yards. It carried a good six-point head and was probably middle-aged. Suddenly, a young two-year-old buck, appeared under the seat, stamped a hoof in anger and then charged the older buck.

Both squared up to each other, and though there was no clash of antlers, this was an unusual sight at this time of year, especially as the rut has been over for several weeks. Eventually, both decided to retire and slowly grazed away.

Meanwhile, from the Axe Estuary newsletter, assembled by David Walters, I note that no fewer than 36 little egrets were counted at Colyford Common on August 15th, while a young cuckoo was seen and photographed feeding on

caterpillars. Meanwhile, a species of ladybird which had long been thought nearly extinct has now been found on these wetlands.

A small breeding colony of the 13-spot ladybird has been discovered, the first breeding record since 1952, although there have been 10 confirmed sightings along the south coast in the past decade. This ladybird sports between seven and 15 black spots on a background of orange-red, but is smaller than the more familiar seven spot ladybird, as well as being longer and thinner. Let's hope these rare ladybirds do not fall victim to the aggressive and increasingly widespread and invasive harlequin beetle.

■ WHILE recently visiting a friend who lives near the tiny village of Chitterne, bang in the centre of Salisbury Plain, I noticed that amongst several cases of mounted

birds in hid house, including grouse, blackcock and woodcock, he had a case holding a well mounted Scottish wild cat.

Probably of Victorian origin, the cat, with its flattened head and club-like tail, was distinctive and a far cry from a domestic moggy.

Once relatively common throughout Britain, hunting, competition with man and habitat destruction gradually forced this magnificent animal to its last stronghold, Scotland.

Sadly, today, due to hybridisation with domestic cats and a reduction in its favoured woodland habitat, the wild cat has now been reduced in numbers to an estimated total of around 400.

The Cairngorms are its last stronghold and urgent action is being taken to try and ensure that this cat, unique as a sub-species, to Scotland, does not become extinct.

Currently there is a programme to try and ensure that all domestic and farm cats in the Cairngorm region are neutered in order to try and stop hybridisation and, consequently the ultimate destruction of this remarkable animal.

Furthermore, wildlife managers and gamekeepers are being asked to make sure that if they encounter a wildcat it is always given the benefit of the doubt. Hopefully, this untameable and magnificent feline will be saved from joining the ever increasing number of creatures which are becoming extinct on the planet.

Once the roe deer rut is over, and this year it seemed to finish around the second week of August, the bucks normally tend to retire into cover, perhaps to recover their strength but, early last month, I enjoyed a curious encounter with two bucks.

I was sitting in a high seat — without my rifle — simply to watch the scene. It was evening and the light was fading when a young buck, perhaps two-years-old, emerged from the wood, followed shortly after by an older buck with n excellent head, the antlers high above its ears and carrying six points.

Both were perhaps 200 yards away when and grazing when, suddenly, the older buck cantered across the field straight towards me and paused a mere 20 yards away.

Almost at once the young buck charged down the field to stop beneath my seat, stamp the ground in anger and then, head down, attack the older buck.

In fact, both made false charges at each other but there was no clash of antlers. After a few minutes of to-ing and fro-ing both deer gave up and began peacefully to graze again.

A curious incident and perhaps a left-over from the recent rut — or perhaps they just disliked each other!

I understand that the new edition of the Blackdown Hills Countryside Events programme is now available and is packed with ideas for the next few months. Courses on offer include wood carving, nature photography, hedge laying and map reading.

There will be a mushroom hunt and the opportunity to visit historic Loughwood Meeting House.

With Christmas approaching you can learn how to make decorations and go carol singing under the stars. Youngsters can discover how to make bird boxes, sample wildlife camps and visit an Iron Age fort at Dumpdon Hill.

The programme is available as a booklet from local tourist information centres and libraries, as well as some shops and inns. The full programme can also be visited on line at www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk/calendar.htm. You can also call the AONB office on 01823 680681.

To contact Tony Jackson, write to: Country Scene, South Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD or by email to: wardjackson@tiscali.co.uk

The views expressed are those of the columnist and not necessarily of the newspaper.

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**We are proud supporters of the Blackdown Hills
Business Association (BHBA) - the Area of
Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the
Neroche Scheme**

Cotley girls' national win

By KATE WILLIAMS

kate@tindlenews.co.uk

THE Cotley Hunt Pony Club is celebrating after its intermediate event team stormed a win at the Pony Club Championships.

Held at Draycott House in Derbyshire, the championships took place between August 13th and 16th and hosted the annual finals for Intermediate and open level club members across five of the major disciplines, including dressage and dressage to music, showjumping, eventing, mounted games and polocrosse.

Teams from all over the country and Ireland were there representing their regions at the national event.

The Cotley team won the Intermediate Eventing Championship on the Tuesday amidst fierce competition.

Team members were Jessica Gundry on Charlton Blue, Layla Felgate on Ricas Moon Shadow, Olivia Benger on Killarney and Sophie Benger on Mr Monty.

Jessica did extremely well and was placed second individually in her section; Olivia and Layla were both placed eighth individually in their sections.

All four members did particularly well to each produce double clears. Close behind them with a narrow margin were the Taunton Vale Harriers also from Area 15.

Both teams win a training day with three of the country's top riders — William Fox Pitt, Mary King and Harry Meade. The Cotley team also received silver salvers, sashes and saddle cloths.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIT HOUGHTON

Cotley also put forward an open dressage team which came 10th overall. The team consisted of Jessica Gundry on Charlton Blue, Olivia Benger on Killarney, Alice Sopwith on Cybil and Kate Sopwith on Wincey Jack. Kate was placed third individually in her section.

All the team members were very grateful to Sarah Clist, their team manager, who spent the four days at the championships helping them.



◆ THE winning Cotley team, from left, Leyla Falgate, Jessica Gundry, Olivia Benger and Sophie Benger with the Over To You trophy shield. Inset, Jessica Gundry and Charlton Blue

YOUR PAPER FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Get in touch with
the news team at
blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk



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Local Country Markets

Blackdown Hills

Taunton Town Centre

4th Saturday of Month

Val Baker

Tel: 01823 681484

Mobile: 07711366885

Churchinford

1st Saturday of Month

Nick Strange

Tel: 01823 601 565

Yarcombe Village

2nd Saturday of Month

John Carter

Tel: 01404 861 353

Hemyock

3rd Saturday of Month

Heather Stallard

Tel: 01823 680 237

Stockland

Last or 5th Saturday of Month

Monica Paris

Tel: 01404 881 535

Welcome to Neroche



A Landscape Partnership Scheme in the northern Blackdowns - enhancing and celebrating the hills and forests for nature, heritage and people-

www.nerochescheme.org

October Events

Managing Woodland for Woodfuel and Wildlife

Date: 5th October

Time: 10am - 3.30pm

Location: Park Farm, Wellington, TA21 9NP

Contact Name: John Greenshields

Telephone: 01823 660764

Email: parkfarm@tinyonline.co.uk

Fee: £40 per person (£15 Blackdown Hills & East Devon

Woodland Association members). Booking essential

Neroche Conservation Volunteers

Date: 12th October

Time: 9.30am - 3pm

Location: Mount Fancy. Park at Staple Hill car park

Contact Name: Jilly Ould

Telephone: 01823 680846

Email: jilly.ould@forestry.gov.uk

Fee: Free! But please book in case of last minute changes

Young Wood volunteering

Date: 20th October - 21st October

Time: 9.30am - 3pm

Location: Young Wood, nr Staple Fitzpaine

Contact Name: Jilly Ould

Telephone: 01823 680846

Email: jilly.ould@forestry.gov.uk

Fee: Free! But please book in advance

Relief carving with Michael Fairfax

Date: 23rd October

Time: 10am - 4pm

Location: Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine (precise location details given on booking)

Telephone: 01823 680846

Email: info@nerochescheme.org

Fee: £40. Booking required

Young Wood volunteering day

Date: 26th October

Time: 9.30am - 3pm

Location: Young Wood, Nr Staple Fitzpaine

Contact Name: Jilly Ould

Telephone: 01823 680846

Email: jilly.ould@forestry.gov.uk

Fee: Free! But please book in case of last minute changes

Honiton and District Writer's Group 2011 Young Writers Competition

For Primary and Senior School Children in East Devon

"Write us an original story with up to 750 words on any subject you like".

That's the challenge Honiton and District Writers Group is again setting all East Devon children between the ages 5 and 18 again in their annual Young Writers' Competition.

"Last year was a great success and we had some wonderful work from many budding young Junior School writers. This year we are extending the competition to the Senior schools in East Devon as well. We know there is real talent out there," said John Carter one of the competition organisers. "So come on you young writers why not brush the dust of those imaginative ideas you have been storing up and show us what you can do; even if it's your first effort at writing a story, have a go."

The Junior entries will again be judged by children's writer T. M. Alexander, author of the Tribe series of books. The Senior entries will be judged by Sue Purkiss author of the Warrior King, Emily's Surprising Voyage and The Warrior King. Sixty three Junior schools and nine Senior schools are being asked to get involved again but any East Devon eligible boy or girl can enter. Six winners will be chosen from the two Junior age groups 5 to 8 and 9 to 11 and six from the two Senior age groups 11 to 14 and 16 to 18. They will receive a signed framed certificate, a generous gift token and one of the authors signed books.

All entries have to be in by 10th November and winners will be informed and announced in the press at the end of that month; prizes will be presented by the judges at a reception in early December.

"Details of the competition will soon be displayed in schools, village halls, libraries, etc. Stories should be sent with a title and a separate sheet showing your name, age, telephone number and address, (with parents/teachers consent, of course) to me, John Carter, Smokey House, Yarcombe, Honiton, Devon EX14 9AD. Good luck with your entries, we can't wait to read them!"

Honiton and District Writers Group meets at 7.30 on the first Thursday of every month in the Monkton Court Hotel, Monkton, Nr. Honiton

John Carter

Leisure Review

Advertising sales: 01297 32601 louise@tindlenews.co.uk

Editorial: 01297 631120 blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk

Captivating dance debut

FREE Leisure Review Diary Dates listing form

Date
Event
Time
Venue
Town/Village
Organised by Tel no
Send your **Diary Dates** to: View from the Blackdown Hills, Tindle House, South Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD
Email the above information to: diarydates@tindlenews.co.uk
Please note: This is a free service and whilst we endeavour to include all entries, we cannot guarantee all listings submitted will be published. Please use one form per event.

WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE DIARY DATES LISTINGS OR QUERIES OVER THE PHONE
WE WILL TRY TO PUBLISH ALL DIARY DATES LISTINGS BUT THIS IS NOT GUARANTEED

THE Brewhouse, Taunton, is about to see the world premiere of some captivating pieces of choreography.

On Tuesday, October 4th, starting at 7.45pm, Pagrav Dance will showcase Anant & I, Within as performed by Urja Desai Thakore.

Based in Milton Keynes, Urja's Pagrav Dance Company uses a traditional Kathak technique to explore the narrative of modern society.

The performance of Anant & I, Within splits itself into two with the first piece — Anant — being a personal exploration that reveals Urja's artistic journey from India to the UK, using the classic Kathak Style.

The second piece — I, Within — is a new dance theatre production which puts a bold contemporary twist on traditional Kathak vocabulary.

Performed as a duet, it explores the different roles of women in modern society through paradoxical reflection, two women as part of one whole, demonstrating the multifaceted nature of our individual identities.

Having performed extensively in Asia and the UK, Urja co-choreographed Bells for Akademi at the Trafalgar Square Festival. Bells was an outdoor, large and stunning dance spectacle, which brought together international talents from Delhi, London and Belgium.

In 2008, Urja choreographed for Akademi's Daredevas, a showcase of young British and international talents performed at the Southbank Centre.

The Pagrav Dance Company was initially started in 1983 in India with a view to promoting Indian folk dancing.

Following its success, Pagrav began to expand its choreography to incorporate the promotion of other Indian classical art forms all over India.

Having relocated to the UK, the company continues to work to promote Indian arts, culture and traditions in its purest form.

The uniqueness of Pagrav Dance Company lies in its ability to depict the modern world through traditional styles.

To book tickets, call the box office on 01823 283244 or visit www.thebrewhouse.net.

Diary dates

Wednesday, October 5th

HONITON: Hospiscare supper evening at Mackarness Hall 7pm. Tickets £7.50 from Mary 01404 43196.

Thursday, October 6th

HONITON: Skittles evening at the Heathfield organised by Honiton and District Liberal Democrats 7.30pm. For details contact Vera Howard 01404 47127.

Friday, October 7th

HONITON: The pantomime society will be holding a quiz evening to raise funds for next years performance of Babes in the Wood to be held in the Mackarness Hall 7.30pm. Teams a maximum of six at £2 each.

Sunday, October 23rd

UFFCULME: Autumn half term Steam Up! 1.30pm - 4pm at Coldharbour Mill. Engines in steam from 11am. Mill tours, refreshments available.

Local produce sale

THE Dunkswell Farmers' Market is set to take place on Saturday, October 8th.

The event will run from 10am until 12noon and will be held at the Throgmorton Community Hall.

Fresh local produce, plants, crafts and local services will be available.

Refreshments will also be available during the market.

October Events with the AONB

1st Oct 2011

Dalwood
Hidden in the hills: Loughwood Meeting House
A rare chance to visit Loughwood Meeting House with an expert guide. Step back into the 17th century at this atmospheric thatched chapel, and learn about the people who built a secret place to worship. A short talk by Dr Malcolm Bonington at the meeting house will be followed by further chat, tea and cake at Kilington village hall.
2.30pm - 4.30pm Cost: Adults £5, Under 18s £3. Booking essential.
For more information: Contact the Blackdown Hills AONB office on 01823 680681 or email blackdownhills@aonb.gov.uk. Suitable for children over 12.

Blackdown Hills AONB and the National Trust
The Event: Hedge laying day course

Location: Yarrowcombe/Stockland area
Learn the traditional skill of hedge laying with experienced instructors from the Blackdown Hills Hedge Laying Association. Hedge laying creates materials for crafts and habitats for wildlife as well as providing barriers and shelter for stock.
Cost: £30. Booking required via the BHHA website at <http://bhha.info> 9.30am - 4.00pm
For more information: Contact George Pidgeon on 01404 881634 / 07970 644631 or see <http://bhha.info>

Blackdown Hills Hedge Association
Yarrowcombe/Stockland area
Hedge laying improvers course

A course for those who have previously attended the Blackdown Hills Hedge Association's day course (above), and would now like to improve their skills.
9.30am - 4pm Cost: £30. Booking required via the BHHA website at <http://bhha.info>
Location: Yarrowcombe/Stockland area
For more information: Contact George Pidgeon on 01404 881634 / 07970 644631 or see <http://bhha.info>

Blackdown Hills Hedge Association
5th Oct 2011

Managing woodland for woodfuel and wildlife
A day of information on all aspects of woodland management concentrating on the smaller owner/user, covering planting, measurement of volumes, conservation within the woods, pests & diseases, grants and more.
Cost: £40 per person (£15 to members) to include a light lunch.
Booking essential.
Location: Park Farm, Wellington, TA21 9HP
For more information: Contact John Greenhills at parkfarm@tindlenews.co.uk / 01823 660764. Further details at <http://www.woodfuel.co.uk/>

Toilets on site
Blackdown Hills and East Devon Woodland Association
7 - 8th Oct 2011

Seville's Croft - Family Wildlife experience
Location: Seville's Croft
Wild experience with nature during the evening, night and from early next morning. Also some games and woodcraft. All food and equipment (including tents) are provided, meals and hot drinks prepared over the campfire.
Friday 6pm - Saturday 12 noon
Cost: £40 per adult and £30 per child (over 7s only). Booking required.

Location: Seville's Croft, EX15 3QX. Map ref: ST 146 104
For more information: Contact Richard and Alison Whiteside on 01823 680931 mailto: info@wildsideexperience.co.uk
Walk level C Suitable for children(7), WC
Wildside Experience

8th Oct 2011
Meet opposite Merry Harriers Pub, Forches Corner
An autumn walk

A typical Blackdown Hills ramble, a bit muddy, a bit hilly, but with the added interest of the area having connections to the Camden Artists group. About 4 miles (5.5 km).
10am - 1pm Cost: Free. Booking not required
Location: Meet opposite Merry Harriers pub, Forches Corner. Map ref: ST 183 171
For more information: Contact Dorothy Saunders on 01823 421376
Walk level: C
Blackdown Hills Walking Group

11th Oct 2011

Riggles Farm, near Luppitt
Nature Nights
meadows and woodlands. Meet outside Riggles Farm House by the front door and we'll walk together with Lynne Kenderdine, a naturalist & shabaz practitioner, along with Lesley Rogan, facilitator and reiki master. Park behind the old pink barn on the left as you approach the farm house.
All adults welcome. Please bring a torch and come dressed for all weathers with sensible shoes, plenty of layers and waterproofs. We'll end the evening around a fire with a cuppa.
Riggles Hill Nature Nights every 2nd Tues of the month
Date: 11th Oct 2011, 7-9.30pm
Location: Riggles Farm House
Grid Ref: ST 18247 08317
Cost: £10. Booking required (10 people maximum)
Phone us to book or for more info 07596 511355
Walk Level B & C (variable terrain)
Riggles Farm WC
DATES - weather permitting! 11th Oct 2011, 7-9.30pm, 8th Nov 11, 13th Dec 11, 10th Jan 12, 14th Feb 12 and 13th Mar 12

12th Oct 2011
Varies by month - see Nereche website for details
Nereche Conservation Volunteers

A practical volunteering day in the fresh air. Tasks vary through the year and include scrub cutting and path maintenance, all designed to help wildlife and keep areas accessible. Tasks take place on Forestry Commission and Somerset Wildlife Trust sites. All tools and instruction provided.
9.30am - 3.00pm Cost: Free. Booking required
For more information: To book a place please phone the Nereche office on 01823 680846, or email info@nereche.org. For more details visit <http://www.nereche.org>. Suitable for children over 10

14 - 15th Oct 2011
Seville's Croft, EX15 3QX
Wild food and nature camp
Friday 6pm - Saturday 12noon

A guided experience with nature, led by naturalists Richard and Alison Whiteside of Wildside Experience. You'll be shown how to recognise and harvest a variety of wild foods including fungi, berries, roots and leaves. All food and equipment (including tents) are provided. Meals and hot drinks will be prepared over the campfire and will include wild food!
Cost: £40 per adult and £30 per child (over 10s only). Booking required.
Location: Seville's Croft, EX15 3QX. Map ref: ST 146 104
For more information: Contact Richard and Alison Whiteside on 01823 680931 / info@wildsideexperience.co.uk
Walk level C Suitable for children(10), WC
Wildside Experience

15th Oct 2011
To be confirmed - see Nereche website near the time for more details
Nereche Butterflies

Join Roger Bristow of Butterfly Conservation Devon to learn about the brown hairstreak butterfly, and how we can help with collecting data about egg numbers in the hedgerows of the Blackdown Hills. A talk will be followed by a walk and egg hunt! Further egg hunting can be completed in your own time over an allocated area.
10am - 2pm Cost: Free. Booking required
For more information: To book a place please phone the Nereche office on 01823 680846, or email info@nereche.org. For more details visit <http://www.nereche.org>. Suitable for children over 10

16th Oct 2011
Claydon Village Hall
Waxcap Survey Training

This autumn, help Somerset Wildlife Trust look out for colourful waxcap fungi! Recording waxcaps tells us a lot about the environment, and on this course you can learn how to take part. A session in the village hall will be followed by a field visit nearby.
10am - 1pm Cost: Free. Booking essential.
Location: Claydon village hall, EX15 3TD.
For more information: Contact Alison Slade on 01823 652409 / Alison.Slade@somersetwildlife.org
Somerset Wildlife Trust

23th Oct 2011

Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine (precise location details given on booking)
Relief carving with Michael Fairfax
A day in the forest with artist Michael Fairfax, learning how to create a shallow relief carving in wood. Bring along a favourite image and Michael will show you how to turn it into a relief carving. No experience required - all tools, materials and instruction provided.
10am - 4pm Cost: £40. Booking required
For more information: To book a place please phone the Nereche office on 01823 680846, or email info@nereche.org. For more details visit <http://www.nereche.org>. No obstructions or barriers (eg steps or stilts) Toilet on site (compost only)

Nereche
Membury village hall car park
Walk in the Membury area

A 15 km/9 mile walk from Membury visiting Furley, Bewley Down, Narford, Cotley, Brockfield, Chardstock and Twist, with return to Membury. Wonderful views across the Yarty and Axe valleys. Please bring a packed lunch and a drink.
10am - 2pm Cost: Free. Booking not required.
Location: Membury village hall car park. Map ref: ST 276 030
For more information: contact Tim Fletcher on 01404 881512 or 07715 49029
Walk level: C
Blackdown Hills Walking Group

26th Oct 2011
Buckland St Mary village hall
Make a rustic hedgerow chair

Make a traditional Westcountry hedgerow chair to take home. Learn how to select the right green-wood branches and fit them together in a clever sequence to create a strong and comfortable chair.
10am - 4pm Cost: £50. Booking required (at least two weeks in advance)
Location: Buckland St Mary village hall, TA20 3SP
For more information: Contact Jenny Archard on 01404 549498 / craftcourses@bhha.info or see <http://bhha.info>
Toilets on site. Level access. No obstacles.
Blackdown Hills Hedge Association

Buckland St Mary village hall
Blackdown splint basket course

This local version of the traditional splint basket was used for carrying potatoes, turnips etc. The sturdy construction gives it many uses around the garden and home. Using goat willow from the Blackdowns and some basic green wood-working, make your own basket to take home.
10am - 4pm Cost: £50. Booking required (at least two weeks in advance)
Location: Buckland St Mary village hall, TA20 3SP
For more information: Contact Jenny Archard on 01404 549498 / craftcourses@bhha.info or see <http://bhha.info>
Toilets on site. Level access. No obstacles.

Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine
Nereche Conservation Volunteers

A day at our new community woodland centre at Young Wood, coppicing hazel and ash to generate firewood, improve habitats for wildlife and lay the foundations for traditional management of this woodland into the future. Also some construction work on facilities for the woodland workshop site. All tools and instruction provided.
9.30am - 3pm Cost: Free. Booking required
Location: Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine (precise location details given on booking)
For more information: To book a place please phone the Nereche office on 01823 680846, or email info@nereche.org. For more details visit <http://www.nereche.org>. No obstructions or barriers Suitable for children over 10 Toilet on site (compost only) Accessible by public transport

Nereche
30th Oct 2011
Tuckers Arms, Dalwood
Mushroom Foray

Dr David Allen's ever popular autumn mushroom foray. Hunt for wild fungi and learn how to identify a huge variety of local mushrooms, from the weird to the wonderful. After the walk, you can choose to join David for a mushroom apéritif at the Tuckers Arms.
11am - 2pm
Cost: Adults £5, Under 18s £3. Optional mushroom apéritif £3 per head. Booking essential.
Location: Tuckers Arms, Dalwood, EX13 7EG.
For more information: Contact the Blackdown Hills AONB office on 01823 680681 or email blackdownhills@aonb.gov.uk. Suitable for children over 5.

Blackdown Hills AONB

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Tel: 01404 891358/287 | email: reception@lakeviewmanor.co.uk
www.lakeviewmanor.co.uk

www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk
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poacherspocket@hotmail.co.uk

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Festive December Evening Menu 2011

STARTERS

CHEFS SOUP OF THE SEASON

A Seasonal, Hearty Soup of the Day, Served with Hot Crusty Bread and Butter

BRAISED MACKEREL

In Cider, Served on Layers of Sliced Potatoes, Spinach and Locally Harvested Bramley Apples

WILD DUCK

Served on a Leafy Kale and Chestnut Stir Fry, Oozing in a Sticky Port Foam

POACHED CHRISTMAS PEAR

Served Chilled, with a Blue Cheese Mousse, on Toasted Walnut Bread with a Local Honey Vinaigrette

MAIN COURSES

TRADITIONAL ROAST TURKEY

Slow Oven Baked West Country Farm Assured Turkey, Served with Crispy Goose Fat Roast Potatoes,

Creamy Buttered Mashed Potatoes, Pigs in Blankets, with Cranberry and Sage Stuffing.

Not to Forget the All Important Brussels Sprouts, Oven Browned Parsnips and Carrots

Oozing in Honey and Cinnamon, and of Course Lashings of Gravy

**The West Country Produces Without Doubt Some of the Best Poultry in Britain, During the December Months we Ensure all the Turkeys we use have been Reared in Devon, From Field to Fork we Always Like to Give Our Customers the Chance to Sample Some of Devon's Finest Produce, That's Why we at the Tuckers Arms Believe in Devonshire Farms for Devonshire Food*

CHOICE OF TURKEY TRIMMINGS....

This Year you have the Choice of Either One of our Real Home Baked Yorkshire Puddings

OR

A Slice of 'Woodland View Farm' Ham Studded with Cloves and Baked with a Honey and Butter Glaze

VENISON HAUNCH

Pan-Fried and then Rested until Pink....As it should be, Served on a Bed of Red Cabbage, with Oven Roasted Salsify, Pearl Onions, and Redcurrants, In a Port and Clementine Gravy

ROASTED BREAST OF CHICKEN

Served on a Smoked Bacon and Wild Mushroom Risotto, Topped with a Roasted Shallot and Thyme Gravy

LAMB RUMP

Herb Crusted, West Country Rump of Lamb, Cooked Pink, Served on a Root Vegetable Gratin, Topped with Rioja, Redcurrant and Rosemary Gravy

SEA BASS WITH CLAMS

Wild Channel Sea Bass, Oven Roasted, Served with Kale, Pickled Samphire Grass and Clams, In a Sherry and Mushroom Broth

* The Bass Used in this Dish has been Sourced from a Bristol Channel Based Fishery, Currently Undergoing Assessment for MSC Certification as a Sustainable Fishery and the Blue Eco Label

SPINACH AND ROASTED GARLIC MUFFIN

Stuffed with Goats Cheese and Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Accompanied with an 'Agar Set' Leek, On a Bed of Sweet Potato Puree, Drizzled in Leek and Sage Sauce

DESSERTS

Traditional Christmas Pudding with Brandy and Cinnamon Sauce

Taste of the West Country Cheese Board with Hand Made Orchard Chutney

Bakewell Pudding made with Mulled Wine Soaked Plums

Dark Chocolate Cheesecake, Laced with Hazelnuts and Rum Soaked Raisins

TO FINISH

Coffee and Warm Mince Pie

Four Course £25.00 per Person*

Festive Evening Menu will be available 6.30pm-9pm from the 1st of December to 30th December (Excluding 25th and 26th of December)

Large Parties Can be accommodated in our function room
* This Menu is Also Available Lunchtimes throughout December

Four Courses for £20.00 between 12pm and 2pm

Reservations Only 1st December-24th December

Parties of 6 or more must order in advance, advance orders must be received 7 days prior to dining.

Advanced Bookings are essential
As an organised dining experience is always a superior dining experience!

However, If you are just passing by in December

don't hesitate to call in and see if we can

accommodate you with a meal from our a la carte

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What to do with your Autumn harvest

Making juice from home-grown apples is one of the most satisfying ways of using ripe surplus and ripe windfall fruit.

Most gardeners are familiar with the seasonal problems of over production as the freezer fills with apple puree, the prospect of another apple pie or

crumble seems less enticing than it did at the beginning of the season and there are still more apples to be removed from under the trees before the grass can be mown! The answer is a fruit press that will gobble up pound upon pound of apples and generate gallons of delicious juice.

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made juice tastes far better than most mass-produced commercial juices, many of which are made from reconstituted imported concentrates.

There are two processes in juice making: first the fruit must be crushed; second the juice is pressed from the crushed fruit.

- Apples can be crushed by pounding them in a bucket with a length of clean timber or they can be easily crushed by a purpose made apple crusher which produces a consistence appropriate for pressing.

Cutting apples into slices is not sufficient, nor is using a food processors and liquidiser, which produce too fine a puree for pressing.

- Once crushed, the apples can be pressed using a fruit press.

As the pressing bar of the press is turned the press exerts pressure onto the crushed apples, forcing the juice out through the gaps in the barrel like part of the press and into the gully in the base plate.

The apple juice can be drunk immediately, stored until a later date by freezing or pasteurising or turned into cider.

Vigo, based at Dunkeswell in Devon, offer a range of fruit crushers and presses to suit different scales of production, all available to view in their showroom, which is open Monday to Friday 9am until 4.30pm.

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Written by Barbara Hill



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Focus on Hemyock



As you may have realised over the past couple of weeks Hemyock Motors have been going through some drastic changes. The first and most important of which is that we have relocated the workshops. The new address for this is:

**Unit 1B, Station Road, Hemyock,
Devon, EX15 3SE**

So, as we hope you agree exciting times are ahead for Hemyock Motors.

We are still trading and we will continue to have the same extremely high standards and healthy work ethic as we have always strived to achieve. We hope that you can join us in our move and will look forward to retaining your much valued business.

Please feel free to contact us for queries and quotes on 01823 680591

THE village of Hemyock lies on the River Culm in the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the parish covers some 5000 acres and includes the hamlets of Ashculme, Culm Davy, Mackham, Madford, Tedburrow and Simmondsburrow.

This bustling village community supports a population of 2,211.

Hemyock was first recorded in the Geld Roll of 1084 and again in the Domesday Book of 1086.

The meaning of the name Hemyock varies but one Celtic meaning is "summer stream". St Mary's Church dates back to the early part of the 12th Century and has some impressive Norman masonry and a peal of 6 bells.

The Normans improved the Castle in 1380 with turrets, and battlements and during Cromwell's brief administration it was used as a prison to hold Royalist sympathisers; however, with the return of the monarchy in 1660 King Charles 2 endorsed the castles destruction!

In 1874 the Culm Valley Light Railway was opened and overnight the village had instant access to the whole of the UK. Not surprisingly in 1886 the Culm Valley Dairy Company was founded (later called St Ivel) and with daily milk collections around the Blackdown's butter was manufactured on a large scale. Linked to the dairy factory was the founding of the Young Farmers Club in 1920 and this is now a popular UK organisation.

The Village.

Hemyock has always been a forward thinking village and is blessed with some well

managed facilities. The Parish Council is actively engaged in village life and over the past couple of years has achieved the formation of the Healthy Living Centre, the Longmead Sports Complex and the flood plain footpath.

Information is freely available to all and can be accessed via the Notice Boards, the website www.hemyock.org, an active and vibrant village magazine, the Parish Pump and Council meetings on the first Wednesday of each month. Importantly the village boasts a very effective Litter Picking organisation which keeps the village clean and tidy.

The Churches. St Mary's and Hemyock Baptist Church are both awaiting new incumbents. St Mary's Church has a full programme of worship and has a Sunday school, a bell ringing club and St Mary's Guild who organise events to raise funds.

The Church fête was open by our MP, Neil Parish. Hemyock Baptist Church is a Bible based church emphasising sound doctrine and teaching the un-compromised Word of God. It boasts a friendly group of fun loving people who run a variety of groups including Seekers, Tempo for Tots, the Alpha Course and an excellent Chapel café. Between them the churches run the holiday club each August.

The Primary School is a successful school in this thriving village and serves both Hemyock and Clayhidon. Built in 1982, there are excellent facilities and in the spacious grounds there are hard play areas, an adventure trail, a sports field, a swimming pool, a wildlife area and a bird box with a camera linked to the school. Classrooms share practical areas for 'hands-on' arts and science activities and there is also a small kiln room for firing ceramics. The school has two libraries and a well-equipped computer suite. There are interactive whiteboards in two classrooms and data projectors in a further three classrooms. The large hall is used for physical education, music lessons, collective worship, drama productions and as a dining hall.

The Village is fortunate to have excellent facilities. The Parish Hall and adjoining rooms are popular meeting areas and the Hemyock Monthly Market was 30 years old on Saturday 17 September. The Longmead sports fields, completed in 2008 are owned by the Parish Council and is a versatile and functional sports and recreation field for use by all. A management group oversees the development and maintenance of the facilities which include 3 tennis courts (two with floodlights), 2 football pitches, a children's play area, a flood-lit multi-use games area, boules pitch and a state-of-the-art pavilion. The Blackdown Healthy Living Centre opened its doors in the Summer of 2010 and is a registered charity, set-up with the aim of delivering informal and fun health education and activities to the local community. This community driven initiative works closely with the local surgeries, religious groups and schools to provide a preventative approach to health

care. This includes classes ranging from cooking for young mums to reading with toddlers, from high energy exercise for the young, to interest groups for those with a little less energy. In October, 2011, over 50 diverse activities will take place at The Centre, aimed solely at promoting good health and well-being and this includes day care for the older members. The Blackdown Practice with its main surgery in Hemyock has 3 modern, fully staffed surgeries providing all primary care services to the residents of the practice area and with a dispensary at each site.

The Blackdown Support Group cares for the young and the old, for those in need of extra help when sick or suffering from accidents, disabilities or in their advancing years. Practical help includes visiting, shopping, lunch clubs, transport and wheel chair loan. The Old School Court is a sheltered housing scheme based in the old primary school which is at the heart of the village. It is managed by an independent trust and gives homes to a dozen people.

Hemyock has an excellent Post Office and Spar shop with off licence, extended hours and cash machine. The Catherine Wheel pub offers a friendly local welcome with real ales, a reasonably priced restaurant, function room, beer garden and skittle alley. The Ivy Café also provides eat in or take away food and a B&B service. There are many award winning B&Bs and holiday accommodation in and around the village.

The Blackdown Hills Business Association supports the many thriving businesses in the village. Brookridge Timber supplies everything to do with timber, there are a number of good builders including Hart's, Lane's, Pring's and Redwood's, 2 hairdressers, funeral directors (Pring's and Redwood's), a family bus company run by Paul Redwood, Dobles garage for car sales and a workshop and a new owner and venue for Hemyock Motors to name but a few. The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty office and a Land Agent /chartered surveyor are based in the former milk factory offices. There is also a Veterinary Clinic based on Station Road.

The Village is proud to have clubs for all ages and they include the Cameo Club, Acorns (over 60s club), Hemyock Men, Hemyock Women, WI, dancing, keep fit, walking group, YFC, cub, scouts, brownies, the baby and toddler group, pre school and the successful gardening club. For the more competitive there are sports teams for badminton, bowling, short mat bowls, cricket, football (senior and junior), snooker and tennis to name but a few.

There are a number of thriving art societies which include the Hemyock Singers and the Valley Arts and Social Society who have a musical performance coming up soon! The History and Archiving group now has over 3,050 images stored in a database with keyword access and the images can be expanded, improved and then printed. There is an active Upper Culm Twinning Association and about 60 people regularly visit each

other alternate years.

The Future. Hemyock continues to be a sought after location in which to purchase property and the Council remain dedicated to improving and providing the necessary infrastructure/facilities to keep the community vibrant and attract new businesses and families.

The building of a new Youth Centre is in process. The old Millhayes garages have to be converted into a safe and functional centre with the right facilities but this will require raising lots of funds first. There are many other projects under way

including the virtual footpath on Station Road, the proposed Penn Cross lay by, the Culm Valley Trail and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in 2012.

Finally. One must not forget the stunning views and particularly when coming down Pencross Hill looking over the village towards Castle Hill. Hemyock is certainly a great place to live but please a warning. Do not retire to Hemyock for a quiet life; there is far too much going on in this active and vibrant community!

David Barton
Clerk to Hemyock Parish Council.

LAST CALL AGM & Annual Dinner

The tables are filling up fast at the BHBA AGM and Annual Dinner on Thursday, 6 October (with our guest speaker Sir Graham Watson MEP), so you will have to be quick! Don't forget to send in your bookings by Monday, 26th September at the latest please!

Many thanks for your support and interest. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events very soon.

Kind regards,
Val Baker
BHBA

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From Cider to Socks and

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The next Blackdown Hills Artisans' Trails are going to be on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th May, 2012. So we would like to hear from Artisans to join us and we would like everyone else to come and visit the Artisans that weekend!

Copies of the guide are available at many local venues or visit
www.blackdown-hills.co.uk
for more details.

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Dunkeswell Farmers' Market

October 2011

The increasingly popular 'Dunkeswell Farmers Market' was launched in March of this year following much community interest and support.

It is held on the second Saturday of each month, in the Throgmorton Community Hall between 10 am and midday.

Not only are there a wealth of locally produced foods to be found at each market there are also seasonal plants, garden sundries and wild bird feeds.

You will also find handmade crafts and local services, and with Christmas just around the corner, lots of gift ideas from health and beauty products, to books and toys, cards and wrapping and stalls selling unique gifts to please both adults and children alike.

With the kitchen open for refreshments, it's also a great chance to catch up with friends, over a tea or coffee and a snack.

Make a note in your diary to come along a support the local market!

If you would like any more information, please phone 01823 681624



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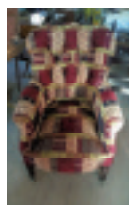
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SAFETY FIRST



◆ THE stylish new Mercedes B-Class has taken safety to a new level. Below, Volvo has announced to build its cars exclusively around four-cylinder engines

THE new Mercedes B-Class has arrived, with a huge list of new developments that add up to a quantum leap forward from the old model.

New engines, new gearboxes, a new chassis and a new styling direction, collectively linked with all kinds of new technologies for the sector, make the new B-Class quite the eyebrow-raiser, especially in terms of its safety systems.

A radar-based collision warning system will be standard across the range, and while that sadly doesn't mean it has a big screen with a load of pulsing green dots, it does mean that if the car detects something in its way that it thinks you might not have seen, it beeps and flashes like a carnival toy, only in a more dignified sort of way.

There is also a new system called Pre-Safe, which pulls the seat belts tight, adjusts the position of the front seats and shuts the windows and sunroof in the event of 'critical lateral dynamics', which seems to mean being crashed into from the side. Mercedes has installed wonderfully-titled 'pelvis bags' as well; airbags designed to protect the pelvis and upper body during side impacts.

There should be a good chance of escaping the need to use them, though, because the new B-Class is being described as 'fantastically agile'. Compared to the old B-Class it has a lower centre of gravity, a new four-link rear axle and an upgraded ESP system. Sports suspension, 20mm lower than standard, is an option.

At first there will be two 1.6 turbocharged petrol engines, with 121bhp and 154bhp, and two 1.8-litre diesels with 108bhp and 134bhp. Standard will be a new six-speed manual gearbox but an equally new seven-speed dual clutch automatic will be available too.

Expect typically lovely interior quality, and some kind of hybrid derivative in the near future.

■ VOLVO has announced that it will build its cars exclusively around four-cylinder engines from now on. The six-cylinder T6 and the five-cylinder T5, D5 and more recently the D4 and D3, are set to be killed off as the respective models they serve are replaced.

The move comes as part of a concerted effort by the company to lose weight from its cars at the same time as increasing efficiency. Four-cylinder turbocharged engines are much more efficient than five- and six-cylinder engines - as much as 25%, says Volvo - with greater performance potential.

It also means that Volvo can shrink and lighten their chassis, as part of a new Scalable Platform Architecture (SPA) that will see essentially the same chassis underpinning future 60, 70, 80 and 90 series cars. The



relative dimensions will just be shrunk or expanded according to the model.

Current practice means that cars are built to house the biggest engine in the range. The BMW 5 Series, for example, must have enough space under the bonnet for a V8 (previously a V10), even if most of them only come with four-cylinder diesels. That creates wasted space and weight.

Volvo's future four-cylinder engines will be as much as 90kg lighter and a good deal smaller than the current 300bhp T6 motor. That means the engine bay can be more compact, cutting lots of surplus metal out of the equation, and there won't need to be so much heavy structural bracing either. The total savings at the front end are massive, and ultimately that means better weight distribution and better handling.

However, there is still some doubt over driving pleasure. Although the power will definitely be there, engaging engine noise might not. Customers are assured, says Volvo, that its engineers are working on it. The new breed of Volvos is expected to arrive in two or three years.

■ VOLKSWAGEN has released details of its latest model, a timely introduction of a limited edition Golf GTI to celebrate the car's 35th birthday.

The special edition Golf GTI boasts an increase in

standard equipment over a regular GTI plus a more powerful engine. With the order book open now and cars expected to appear in October, prices start at £27,525 for the manual transmission three-door model, with a £1,295 premium for the DSG gearbox and £585 for five doors.

Its maker is touting the anniversary GTI as its most powerful yet. Buyers of the special edition Golf will have 25 more horsepower - up to 235 horsepower - while the zero to 62mph sprint takes just 6.6 seconds. Despite the added performance, the car still returns a respectable 34.9 mpg on the combined economy cycle with a manual gearbox and emits 189 g/km of CO₂.

Setting this car apart from its regular GTI cousin is a more sporty-looking bodykit incorporating new side skirts and a revised front bumper which sits below bi-xenon headlights with LED daytime running lights. Unique design lightweight 18-inch 'Watkins Glen' alloy wheels plus an 'Edition 35' badge on the front wing, gloss black door mirror casings, rear windows with 90 per cent tinted glass and rear tinted LED lights complete the exterior changes.

Subtle '35' signatures are carried through to the car's interior, featuring on the head restraints of the heated leather front sports seats as well as the door sills and floor mats, along with a red stripe on the seatbelts and the now famous GTI 'golf ball' gearknob.

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3/4 Bedroom U/F attractive character barn conversion in a rural location close. Fitted kitchen/breakfast room, utility, sitting room, dining bed 4/study and family bathroom. Parking area and garden. Pets/children Considered. Available immediately. Tiverton Office 01884 256331.

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Web Ref: 41887



HONITON

3 Bedroom F/F attached rural cottage to let furnished on six month winter let basis, with superb views. Kitchen/dining room, sitting room, utility, and shower room. Garden and gravelled parking. E.N.S.H. No Pets. Older children considered. Available Immediately. Honiton office 01404 42553.

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2 Bedroom U/F superbly presented barn conversion situated in rural location but within easy access to the M5. Fitted kitchen, sitting room, dining room, en-suite and family bathroom. O.F.C.H. Gardens and allocated parking. No Dogs. Children/cats considered. Available Early November. Tiverton office

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DUNKESWELL

2 Bedroom U/F semi detached house to let with gardens, garage on 6/12 month plus tenancy. Newly decorated and carpeted. Kitchen/breakfast room, sitting room and bathroom. Gardens, parking and single garage. ESH. Pet/children considered. Available immediately. Honiton office 01404 42553.

£575 Per calendar month

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YARCOMBE

2 Bedroom F/F attractive cottage to let over the winter period in rural location. Sitting/dining room, kitchen and shower room. Parking and use of gardens. E.N.S.H. Pet/ Child Considered. Suit Single or Couple. Available End of October. Honiton Office 01404 42553.

£550 Per calendar month

Web Ref: 47190



CHURCHINFORD

2 Bedroom F/F bungalow situated within a peaceful location in the heart of the Blackdown Hills, available on a Winter Let basis. Kitchen/breakfast area, utility, sitting room and bathroom. Garden and Parking. O.F.C.H. Pets/Children considered. Available November Taunton Office 01823 447355

£550 Per calendar month

Web Ref: 32485

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CULM DAVY

A substantial barn conversion centred around a cobbled courtyard and enjoying fine country views over the surrounding countryside. Kitchen/breakfast room, sitting room/dining room, study, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room & sauna. Garage/workshop, extensive outbuildings, cobbled courtyards & gardens. Ref: 43585

Guide price £530,000

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NR DUNKESWELL

2 Acres

A detached south facing bungalow with paddock, views and subject to AOC. Spacious accommodation of sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, 3 bedrooms, en-suite and family bath. Single garage, level gardens and paddock. Ref: 46471

Guide price £265,000

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CHURCINFORD

8 Acres

A conveniently located smallholding centred on a four bedroom detached house with useful range of outbuildings, gardens and adjoining field in total to approximately 7.98 acres. 2 reception rooms, kitchen, laundry room, shower room, 4 bedrooms & bathroom. Ref: 17720

Guide price £565,000

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MARSH

A detached chalet bungalow sitting amidst a generous plot in a convenient village location. 2 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, 3/4 bedrooms one with large dressing room/laundry room, 2 bathrooms, (One with large dressing room). Gardens to front and rear. Garage. Ref: 19200

Guide price £315,000

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COTLEIGH

27 Acres

A privately situated house in a wonderful parkland setting with approximately 27 acres of woodland and pasture. Conservatory, large reception hall, drawing room, dining room, kitchen, utility, study, 2 ground floor bedrooms & bathroom, first floor sitting room, 3 further bedrooms & bathroom.

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CULMSTOCK

5.5 Acres

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